



FrontHeart

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Sacrifice and Celebration

I read an article in the paper the other day that surprised me, but not really. The editorial concerned itself with the fact that we, who live in Connecticut, live in what is considered to be the state with the highest per capita income level in the country; yet, we trail into forty-ninth position in terms of our charitable giving. In other words, we may have greater advantages in regard to our earning potential and ability, but, when it comes to giving back or showing concerns for the needy, we do less than others.

It is true that perhaps we live by an adage which is contradictory to gospel values. After all, what's so wrong with "looking out for number one"? If we

work hard to achieve and succeed, shouldn't everyone else?

We deserve that for which we work hard. We've all pretty much come to believe that there's no such thing as a free lunch or a hand-out without some kind of string attached. And so, is it any wonder that trends of personal sacrifice and charitable giving are on the decline?

Philanthropic institutions and charitable organizations throughout the country all share a common lament-attitudes about giving have radically shifted over the years. This

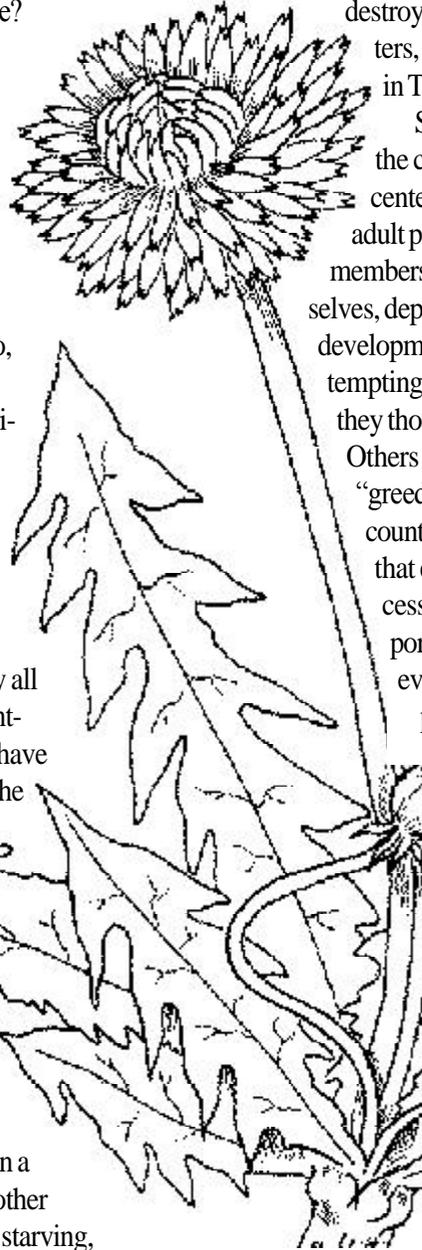
causes one to question why. What is it about our concept of "sacrifice" that prompts us to "look out for #1", rather than feeling even a twinge of concern for other people: the millions of starving, homeless children throughout the

world, families whose lives have been destroyed by natural disasters, or all those suffering in Third World countries?

Some would point out the cause of this self-centered attitude as the adult post-depression era members of society who themselves, deprived in their developmental years, are attempting to make up for what they thought they had missed. Others would label it as "greed", encouraged by a counter-cultural philosophy that equates personal success with a prosperous portfolio. So, is sacrifice even relevant for us to ponder in this new millennium? I guess

one can only answer that question in regard to the way we have been taught and in the witness to sacrifice which our families and, yes, even our faith have imparted to us.

Whenever I think of sacrifice, I immediately think of my parents and



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Sacrifice and Celebration

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the ways they would always put not only our needs, but also the needs of others, before their own. For them, gratitude went hand in hand with sacrifice. In their teaching, they imparted the idea that there are many wonderful ways to pray; a special way to understand the meaning of sacrifice was to pray the Sacrifice Flower prayer. I was taught to say this prayer when I was feeling low, or if I had a burden I wanted lifted. Later, as I got older, I learned to use the prayer for happy occasions and when I had a special request I wanted to make of God.

My mother had a special knack for knowing when something was bothering me. She'd say, "I think it's time for you to go outside and find yourself a Sacrifice Flower. It's time you got your burden lifted from your shoulders and put it to God." So, I would go outside for a flower. The prayer was supposed to be that meant a lot of dandelions and violets and wildflowers because they were easily picked ones.

I was always careful with th

been selected for a holy purpose. Once I carried the treasured flower home, I would tell the flower what burden I wanted lifted and taken to God. How, you may ask, was the flower to do this? Remember, this was a Sacrifice Flower, one that was going to die. The idea was that as life went out of the flower, it would carry my prayer to God. Sacrificing the flower meant that it was not placed in water as I put it on a shelf in my room above my desk. It was a sort of private place, and yet, I could see it whenever I went in and out of my room. Every time I saw the flower, I could see it giving its life for me, and I could imagine my prayer being carried to God. I always had a strong sense that my prayer was being heard. My flower and I were in union.

Sometimes it took a few days for the flower to die; sometimes it would take almost a week. When the flower died, I

would take it outside, say good-bye to it and thank it for giving its life for me and for delivering my prayer. Then, I would bury it so the Sacrifice Flower would have a chance at new life and I remember hoping it would come back as an even nicer flower.

In this simple way, I found out how uplifting prayer and sacrifice can be. In the process, I learned a lesson about life too-how basic both dying and rising are to living, and how important it is that we as individuals become Sacrifice Flowers for each other.

As I grew older, I came to understand that sacrifice isn't easy, and it surely isn't a means to instant gratification. But it is important because, when what we do truly is a sacrifice, it involves a part of personal dying, painful, even agonizing; but the end result is found in the inner joy of knowing someone else's burden has been lifted to God



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Father Flynn

Spotlight on Youth

Forty Days with Jesus

Lent is the period of forty days from Ash Wednesday to Easter; it's the time when fasting and penance commemorate Jesus' fasting in the desert. We Christian followers offer sacrifices to God during these forty days, uniting our physical and spiritual selves in order to come closer to the selfless act of love witnessed by Christ.

Young adults my age sometimes forget the meaning of Lent and the reason we are sacrificing. Those who do decide to sacrifice usually do something like giving up snacks or setting a goal they hope to accomplish. The real challenge that we face during this time is whether or not we actually follow through with our sacrifice. Many of us observe a Lenten sacrifice because we know that it is part of practicing our religion. Just knowing this, however, is not motivation enough to complete our sacrifice. We must fully incorporate the meaning of Lent and the reasons behind the sacrifice before we can be successful.

By following the footsteps of Jesus into the desert, we learn about sacrificing. This Lent, I have decided to exercise every day. By offering this promise to God, I am not only staying healthy, but I will feel better about myself, knowing that I am following my Christian beliefs. Others my age will stay on a steady three-course meal plan for forty days, giving up snacks in between meals. Some even give up sweets or dessert after dinner. Many young adults will do something that they think is minor, such as praying every day. But no matter if it is minor or major, sacrificing is sacrificing. That is an accomplishment in itself.

The challenge not only for us young adults but also for grown-ups is actually following through with the Lenten tradition. We pick up on the things that our elders do or don't do. When they don't follow through with their sacrifices, it sends us the message that Lent is not something that we should take seriously. I know that when my parents didn't discuss their sacrifices with me, I never knew if they were actually following through or not. Once my family and I started to talk about the things that we had decided to sacrifice for Lent, I took my obligation more seriously.

Those of us who do practice Lenten sacrifice as we are supposed to should not make it obvious to others. We should only make it obvious to Our Father Who Is Unseen. He sees what we do privately and rewards us. Those who spend the forty days in the desert, whether grown ups or young adults like me, will be congratulated by Our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Trisha M. Breault



Ministry Makes A Joyful Noise

Sing, sing a new song.” Before the Music Ministers of Sacred Heart can make this happen, they make many sacrifices which go unseen. Following some of the choir members around for a week gives us some idea of what they give before they raise their voices and our spirits to the Lord on Sundays. Follow Pat, Russ, or Tony and you’ll see them arriving one half hour early before mass to have a final practice with Director John Dulina. They have chosen their outfits according to choir rules: shiny black shoes, black pants, no hems showing below the robe, nothing showing above the collar, no showy earrings. Then, it’s sit on cue, stand, smile, blend into one voice, and always keep your eyes on John.

“Robe Mistress” Nancy Kowalski is responsible for keeping all 100 hemlines of those choir robes at the just right length from the floor. Anyone hearing the choir at Sacred Heart or during one of its concerts in New York, or even before the Holy Father in Rome in 1995, has seen the 110 percent that Nancy has sacrificed cheerfully for all of us. Of course, she also sings at all performances.

Another wonderful Nancy, Nancy Coulombe, has been the choir librarian since John became the Music Director in 1992. Nancy says, “As the group gained new members and our competence level grew, so did our need for sheet music and a method to catalog it. I helped John develop a filing system and slowly started taking on more responsibility for the music.” Ever try to keep track of 100 copies of “Taste and See”? Oh, yes, this Nancy also sings every week.

Janet Bashar, one of our cantors, also gives of her time and talent as the Director of the Youth Chorus. Her young charges speak highly of the fun that Janet adds to their choir experience. Janet is a choir parent; her sons also make music with the ministry. Many others, like Jodi and Mabel, drive youngsters to Youth Chorale and then stay late on Thursdays to practice with the adults.

If we were following choir members during the weeks before the Harvest Bazaar, it would be difficult to keep up. Of

course, members have been planning, baking, sewing and building for most of the year. Phyllis, Arlene, Lolly and others have been keeping track of progress. Alex and his family have given up their garage for storage of all the tag sale treasures. Pies and cookies are beginning to fill the freezers of most choir members. Pat Coulter, who joined the choir after only being at Sacred Heart for two weeks, is thinking ahead to the sacrifices

needed from her committee to have another successful Grandma’s Parlour. But Pat, like so many of her fellow singers, does not think of the choir as a sacrifice, but rather it is another family to them. That family-feeling is the only way the group could pull off Sort-em Up Sunday at Alex’s and then the Bazaar the following week.

“The Music Ministry, like any parish group, is supported financially by the parish funds,” says Director Dulina. But, un-

like other groups, “the ministry raises nearly \$6-8000 yearly.” This has purchased “hundreds of musical scores, a new Kawaii piano, and a new choral sound system. Maestro Dulina, a very gifted musician, hopes that the group will be able to raise funds to purchase a new organ which “is badly needed” and to offer at least one major concert a year with full orchestra, to be open to the parish for its enjoyment at a reduced cost.

Okay, John. Sounds like a call for accompanist Patty to start brushing up on her arpeggios. Ray, keep playing that rehearsal tape in your truck, learning the new music as you drive back and forth an hour to work each day. Rod and Leigh, can you spare us more time from your duties with other choirs? Mark and Kathryn, we’ll need you again to accompany us with your piano and violin. Hope you can sacrifice some more time from your high school years. And young Lyn Nagel, you come, too, with that beautiful voice you shared at midnight Mass.

Come and sing, Everyone. There’s a Music Ministry Celebration at Sacred Heart.



Barbara Arendt

Color My Advent with Purple

Here we are, in the Holy Season of Lent, the forty days of fasting and penance traditionally observed by Christians in preparation for Easter. Like all the celebrations of the Faith Community, Advent is rich in symbolism. To test your Advent IQ, try answering these questions. Where does the word "Lent" come from? Why is purple the color of Advent?

Did you know that the word "Lent" comes from words meaning "spring" and "long"? The word probably refers to the lengthening of days as spring approaches. Lent probably grew out of the practice of the early Christian Church of baptizing people at the Easter Vigil. At that time, the church



also accepted repentant Christians back into the faith. Candidates for baptism fasted and received religious instruction.

By 900 A.D. Lent had become a time of penance and preparation for Easter. Christians patterned Lent after the forty days that Jesus prayed and fasted in the wilderness to prepare for His Ministry.

Easter is celebrated on the Sunday after the Paschal full moon, which may occur from March 21 through April 18. When we count the forty days to Easter, we omit Sundays because they commemorate the Resurrection. Thus, in 2000, Lent begins on March 8 and ends on April 22.

And what about that color purple? The historic church used color to set the theme of worship. Because dye was very expensive, it was difficult in antiquity to get many fabrics in color. Being very costly, purple became the color of wealth, power and royalty. Therefore, purple is the color of Lent; we deck our church halls in purple to celebrate the coming of the King. Lenten purple is followed in the symbolism by white, the color of Easter, representing angels and Our Risen Lord.

May your Lenten celebration be enriched by knowing these holiday facts. God deepens our understanding of His Love as we follow Our Savior with palms into Jerusalem.

Tony DiTommaso

Sharing Time, Talent and Treasure

The Parish Stewardship Initiative at Sacred Heart was formally launched on Ministry Weekend, September 25-26. Initiated by the Archdiocese, the program encourages parishioners to fulfill their Christian beliefs by participating in the life of the church and giving freely of what time, talent and treasure each can share. Amid banners and placards, there was an enthusiastic response to very well presented material on the parish ministries already in place. Stewardship Committee Chairman Tony DelNegro reported that 327 people signed up, some for more than one ministry. Membership in some groups swelled by seventy people.

On "Sign-up Sunday" the next week, everyone was asked to confirm their offer of time and talent and, in addition, to pledge their resources, Treasure, to demonstrate their understanding of Stewardship. At this time an additional 147 people

made pledges of Treasure and 256 were added to the lists for Time, Talent and Treasure. The pledges have increased the offertory approximately 30 percent.

Of course, the Stewardship program is not over; it is to be an ongoing program throughout the Archdiocese for the foreseeable future. Meetings are already underway for the Ministry Fair 2000 and all that follows, as a continuing effort to bring Catholics to face our commitment to our church and beliefs. Watch as the program grows throughout the other parishes in the Archdiocese, bringing us all closer together.

Those who have not yet made their commitment may still do so and thus become part of the Stewardship group, knowing some real good will come to others because of our efforts.

Ernest E. Swanberg

Practicing Lenten Acts of Kindness

At this time of the church year with the approach of Lent, we are aware of the traditional thoughts on sacrifice. Children endeavor to give up candy or a favorite television show, while adults deny themselves their morning cup of coffee or try to stop smoking. Some of us try to do extra good deeds daily as a means of sacrifice to those we love.

When I was asked to write an article on the subject of “Sacrifice as a Means to Celebration”, I admit I was stumped for a while. On the surface, the words “sacrifice” and “celebration” seem at odds with one another. The dictionary defines sacrifice as “an offering or forfeiture of something highly valued, for the sake of someone or something considered to have a greater value.” The definition for celebration is “to honor by solemn ceremonies” or to give praise publicly. The more I thought about these two words and what they mean in conjunction with one

another, the clearer the idea of sacrifice as a means to celebration became to me.

In our chaotic, materialistic society, we see people constantly trying to “keep up with the Joneses” who have a nicer car, a bigger house, more “toys”, and who take more vacations than we do. We say we are so busy we rarely have time for anything else in our schedules. Taking the time to make time may be one of the biggest sacrifices for us today.

Speaking as a “thirty-something” parent of four children, it is especially important for us to give our children the precious gift of our time. Whether we have to sacrifice a few hours of reading that wonderful new novel, or cleaning the house just a little bit better, or even sacrificing an overtime paycheck, the extra time taken to read a story or play a game with a toddler is a worthwhile sacrifice. Whether you attend or coach the sports or music event that your child participates in, your sacrifice is worthwhile. Just being available to talk to

to become in-
or her interests —
most important
ce we can make.
celebration of
at sacrifice is
clearly seen in the
joy of a toddler’s
smile, in the
pride of the
child as he
watches you
watching him
perform, or in
the unspoken
gratitude of the
teenager who
owes his parents
here for him.

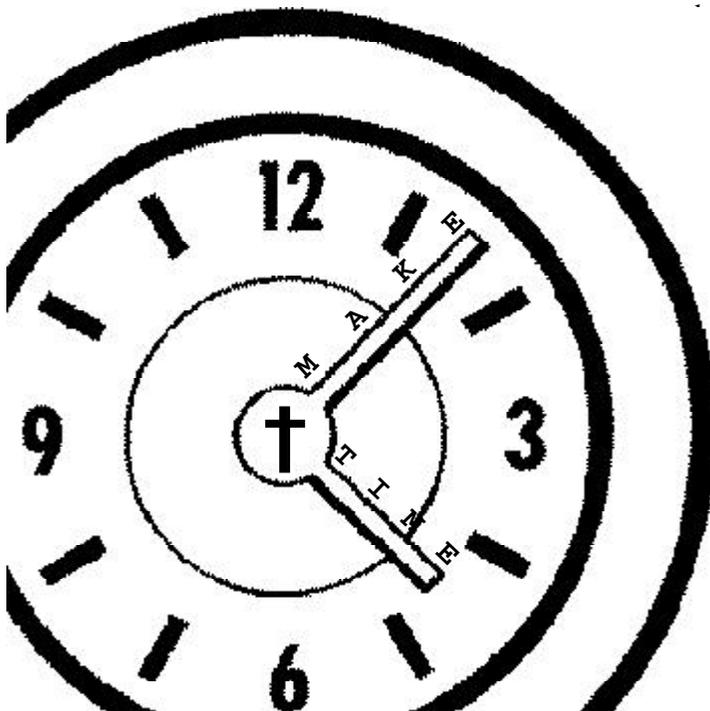
These young people know they are loved and valued and we all celebrate this.

There are many examples of sacrifice that I have witnessed in my neighborhood in my fifteen years of living in Southbury. There is the boy who mows his neighbor’s yard for free when their lawn mower breaks and they can’t afford a new one right away. There is the wife who visits her elderly husband daily in the nursing home to feed him lunch and comb his hair and the woman who put her career on hold to be at home for her children and take care of her elderly mother. There is the man who stops on his way home from work to help a neighbor cut down a tree and to plow his driveway for free. The girl who tutors others and who volunteers at the elementary school to help her former teacher with her class is another good example.

So many people who sacrifice their time to help out at our schools, fire department, and ambulance association to make our town a better place. There are parishioners who were there before the stewardship initiative took place and those who came forward later to offer their time and talents to our church. The celebration is in the compassion that we show for our fellow man and for our love of God which clearly shines through in each one. In each of these actions, whether great or small, we are being the light of Jesus to those around us.

To borrow the words made famous by the “Chicken Soup for the Soul” books, if we all practice random acts of kindness, especially so in this Lenten period, we will see that sacrifice is truly a means to celebration.

Diane Tomas



Ask Father Flynn

Q *In October, there were some articles in both the local papers and Catholic periodicals about the “Doctrine of Justification.” Would you explain what that was all about and why it received so much press?*

A October 31, 1999, was in many ways a day of unprecedented dialogue and agreement between the Lutheran Church and the Roman Catholic Church, for on that day, in Augsburg, Germany, a joint declaration was signed by representatives of both faiths, regarding the “Doctrine of Justification.” Probably few Catholics are totally aware of this doctrine which states that people become “right with God” because Jesus Christ won their salvation through His life, death, and resurrection. Salvation is strictly a gift through faith in Jesus, not because anyone else has earned it. By grace alone, through faith in Christ’s saving work and not because of any merit on our part, we are accepted by God and we receive the Holy Spirit who renews our hearts, calling us to good works.

The Joint Declaration is a significant milestone in the reconciliation of our two church traditions. For, by acknowledging that there is agreement on this critical article of Christian faith, a theological divide which has separated us for nearly 500 years has been bridged. This allows Lutherans and Catholics to continue to dialogue and tackle the remaining list of issues, such as the office of ministry and the authority of the Pope.

What Roman Catholics and Lutherans are now saying is that there is no longer any church-dividing difference in how we both interpret the teaching of justification by grace through faith. However, there is still a difference in how we interpret the Christian life after one has been saved by grace through faith. This is where the discussion will continue.

In a culture dominated by competition, by status, by merit and self-reliance, the deepest significance of our common understanding of the grace of Christ in our lives is that what we receive as a gift also comes to us as a common task and challenge.

The Joint Declaration is the result of more than three decades of international dialogue between Lutherans and Roman Catholics. October 31 was specifically selected as the signing date for the Joint Declaration, the very first such agreement between the two churches, because, on that date in 1517, 482 years earlier, Martin

Luther published his 95 Theses, or points of contention, against the Vatican. Among other things, Luther denounced the sale of indulgences — letters placing punishment for the sins of repentant Christians.

As dialogue continues and the wording of the doctrine is investigated more deeply, the spirit of the ecumenical movement to bring all Christian believers into a stronger union and unity gives us all cause for joy!



If you have a question about your faith, send it to the Communications Committee in care of the rectory and watch for the answer in a future newsletter.

Our Easter

It is not Easter Bunnies
with floppy ears and moist eyes,
or little chicks dyed yellow,
or hard boiled eggs painted
in multi-hued colors and hidden
in plain sight for adorable “cute”
children to scramble about madly
and find with accompanying shrieks.

Beautiful stylish new clothes are nice,
and a Sunday morning promenade is nice,
even healthy, but to strut about with polite
cackling does not an Easter make.

The Easter we should know is not Judy Garland
songs and Fred Astaire dances, beautiful as
they are to hear and behold. The beauty that
is our Easter is of another time and is wrought
from a sterner stuff. For the genesis is intrigue,
betrayal, a showcase trial, humiliation and execution
by cruel crucifixion with a quick burial in a borrowed tomb.
All human stuff. Hardly the pagan rites of spring.

These sordid human happenings, all too common
across the centuries, are not the stuff of modern holidays
and active celebrations, nor were they intended to be!
for what happened next is the awesome reality.

The six thousand crosses lining the Appian Way
bore witness that Spartacus’s gladiators did not prepare
the way, for they hung there as limp testimony to Rome’s
might. They did not climb down to mock the Romans
with their cries for freedom and simple justice. But the
might of Rome was as naught before the ascendancy
of the risen Christ. And the sordid death on Golgotha
was transcended by the glorious living Christ.

So, it’s not chocolate bunnies, and new clothes, a holiday
respite from work, nice as these things are! It is, though,
a celebration of the glories of God embodied in the true
cross that rises from above our altar, the risen Christ.

Al Savard



Ode to Grandparents

Woe is me! What a way to start 2000 in the year of our Lord. Nine pounds more than I was since the beginning of the Christmas Octave.

Here I am, writing this on January 1, in New Paltz, New York, overlooking the Catskill Mountains. An appreciation of God's work smacks me between the eyes as I view the breath-taking majesty from my second floor bedroom window at the Mohonk Mountain House. Philosophically speaking, atheists should have a look at this and perhaps they might reconsider.

My family, including the fiancée, treated me with a milk of four nights and five days at this five-star hotel that included my voluntary participation (and sometimes not so voluntary) in traversing hiking trails, use of a modern fitness center, three glorious which, quite frankly, is sinful. I know I violate Virtue, but I will take up my confessor on the first available Saturday afternoon.

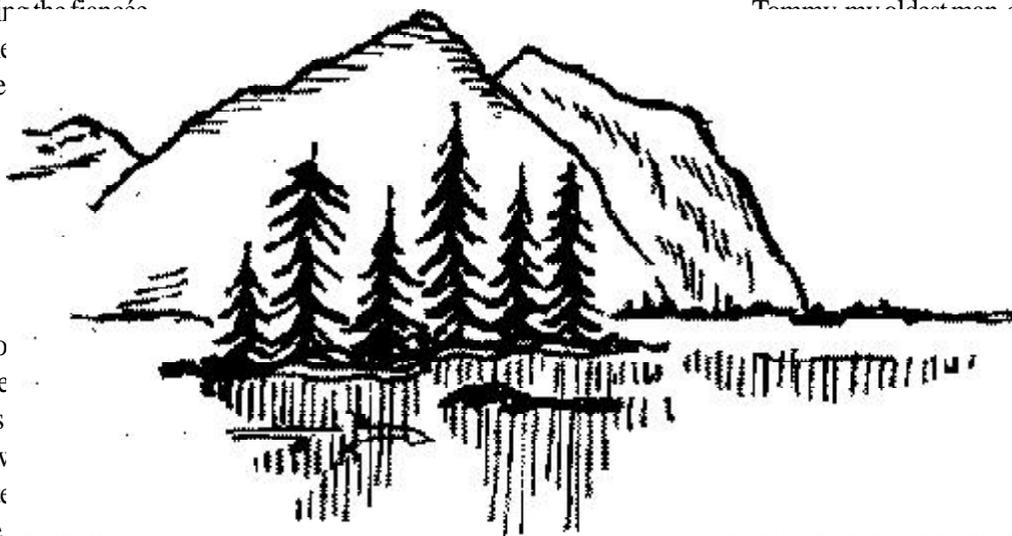
All of this provided a setting in which I could better understand Mother Church's recognition of the importance of family life.

How, you ask? It was being with and surviving the close proximity of my grandchildren (three and five years old respectively) for the same four nights and five days. I could probably say the same about my children, but since they

paid the bill, I will exhibit an example of Christian charity.

There is a joy for us in being with our grandchildren! They all have remarkably similar traits, you know. First, they can never do anything wrong; second, they are always the cutest of all the little people (if you are Irish, you know what I mean). And third, they actually listen to us Grandparents, contrary to our own children, for whom the word "humor" might be more appropriate than "listen."

And so, on December 31, I made a command decision; I decided in mid-



afternoon to take my wee ones for a nature walk along Mountain Top Road. Indeed, it was on a mountain top, high enough to cause Meghan to want to be carried (not all the time, thank heavens), but safe enough for big brother Dylan to navigate with confidence along the trail, yet keeping in close proximity to this aged keeper. I discovered I never truly understood the meaning of the word "curiosity" until I watched these two examine and comment upon the trees,

paths and rocks and, yes, they really did talk to each other.

Two miles and two hours later at dusk, we strolled up the hotel's entrance path and as we climbed the stairs, we were greeted by the family entourage. Lauren, my eldest child, apparently lobbying for the Mother of the Year Award, concluded that all parts of their little bodies remained attached to the appropriate places, and so Motherhood Personified summarily dismissed them to find the cookies and milk located in the main dining room (a daily hotel custom, I was later told).

Tommy, my oldest man-child said a long time. ed." ids and I t was there

actually u."

I felt my families' eyes ne. Turning tears swell vely, "Just

when one of us is the parent and which one of us is the child?"

I heard Lauren state, rather loudly, I thought, "Sometimes we don't know. It depends who is assigned to watch you." And I did hear laughter. My children still care about me. Isn't that a happy revelation!

Was the extra nine pounds worth it? Absolutely!

Woe is me? Not on this grandfather's life.

Dennis J. McLaughlin

Family Focus

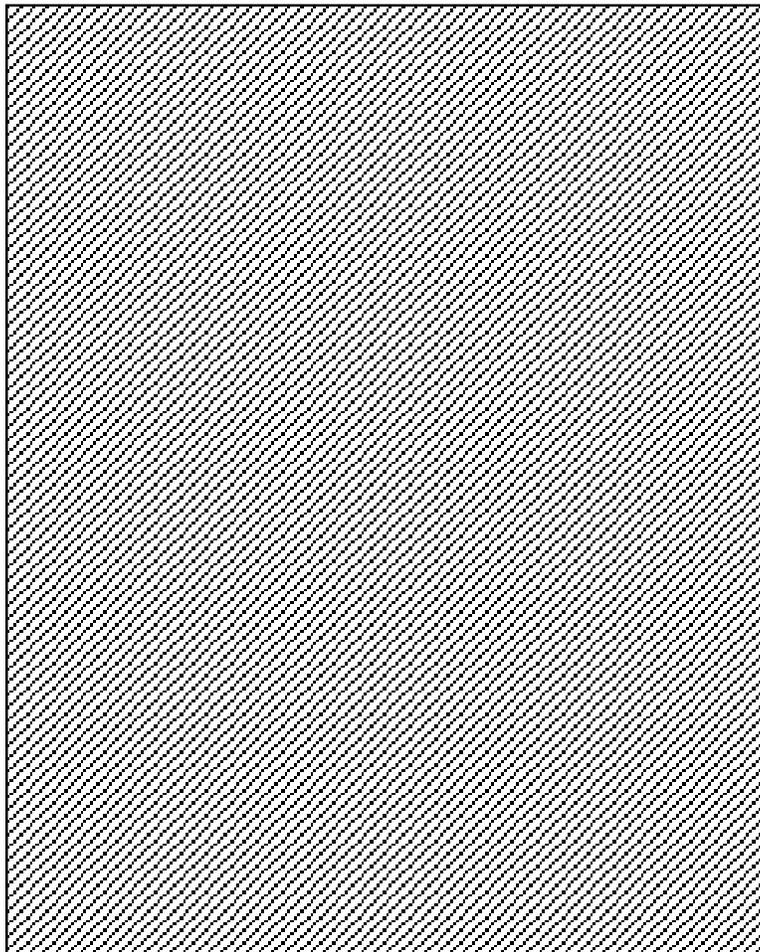
Ever since Ed and Tammey O’Lena moved to Southbury in 1987, they have been active members of our faith community here at Sacred Heart. As their family grew, they instilled in their children the same religious values that they themselves made so much a part of their own lives. Ed and Tammey have three children: Megan (12), Brendan (9), and Molly(6).

When Ed first joined Sacred Heart, he was eager to join the church choir. He had been a member of his high school choir and he really missed singing since graduation. Ed loves the joyful emotion the choir brings to those who listen. But he also feels that, as a member of the choir, he receives a little something himself. Ed takes heart in the words, “whoever sings, prays twice.”

Tammey joined the church choir at the same time as Ed and has been singing in it ever since. She loves the interaction among the singers, coming together as one voice, blending their talents. Providing the audience with those moments of joy, sorrow and reflection makes Tammey’s choir experience rewarding for her.

Participation in the Music Ministry does not stop with Ed and Tammey. All three of their children are members of the Youth Chorale. Megan has been singing the longest and enjoys singing with many of her friends. She also loves the “cool” songs that they sing and getting to meet so many new people. Brendan joined the Youth Chorale next. In addition to his singing, he acted as one of the two Little Drummer Boys at the children’s Liturgy on Christmas Eve. Molly is the most recent family member to join. She just “loves music.”

Ed takes a strong interest in helping our young people. He began several years ago by teaching high school CCD. Ed was also involved in a youth activities ministry during the time the parish council was being formed. The intent of that ministry was to help our young people develop both spiritually and socially by encouraging them to interact with one another while incorporating strong religious values into their daily lives. Accomplishing that is no easy task, but Ed’s approach worked well. Incorporating his terrific sense of humor with his own strong religious convictions, he provided a balance of activities ranging from more serious panel discussions, workshops, and playacting to lighter events such as playing ball,



The O’Lena Family

watching movies and devouring six-foot hoagies.

Tammey shares Ed’s interest in our young people; she currently teaches a fourth grade CCD class, a group she has taught since they were in second grade. Tammey credits her participation in the RCIA program with broadening her religious education and providing her a good background for teaching. She had gone through the RCIA program in order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, which she received as an adult. For Tammey, watching each child progress is exciting. It is so gratifying to her to actually see a young mind absorb something she has taught. Even better, Tammey loves what she learns from the children, too.

Ed’s personal philosophy is: “Look for the good in everyone and everything.” Through his active membership in the

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Paradox of Our Times

The paradox of your times is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider free-ways, but narrower viewpoints. We buy more, but enjoy it less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time; we have more advanced degrees, but less common sense; more knowledge, but less good judgment; more medicine, but less wellness.

We have been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor. We've conquered outer space, but inner space is still a mystery to too many of us.

We have cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul; split the atom, but not our prejudices.

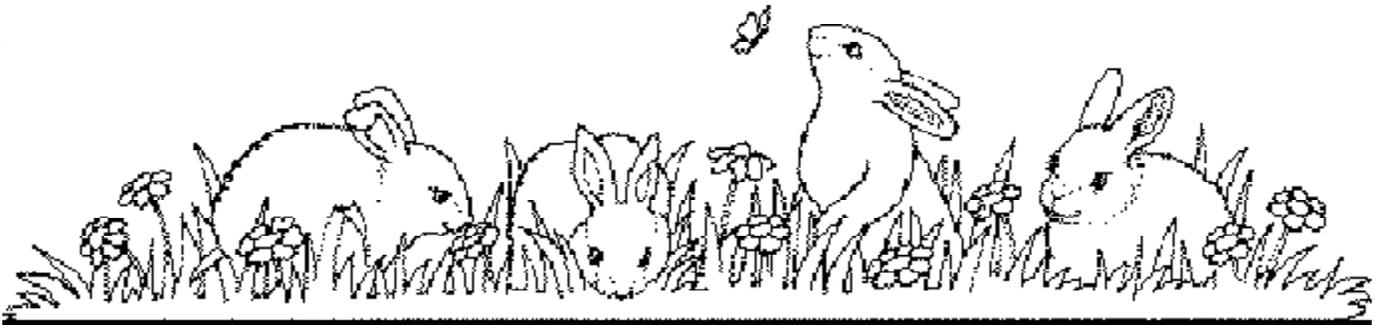
We talk too much, love too seldom and hate too often.

These are times of

mestic warfare; more leisure, but less fun, two incomes and more divorce.

It is a time when there is much in the show window and nothing in the stock-room; a time when technology can bring a letter to you in seconds, and you can choose either to make a difference or just hit "delete".

In a recent homily, Deacon Joe Lavoie quoted this Ann Landers column article.



Family Focus

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Knights of Columbus, Ed lives that philosophy. In 1994-95, he was the Grand Knight of our local council here at Sacred Heart. What Ed likes best about being a Knight is getting involved with many charitable works that the Knights do for our parish. Their works not only bring smiles to faces, but also bring the message of our faith beyond the walls of our Faith Community. Currently, Ed leads our local Assembly of The 4th Degree Knights as its Faithful Navigator. In that Assembly, he hopes to concentrate his efforts this year on a "bring out the vote" campaign and raising funds for the privately funded World War II Memorial to be built in Washington, D.C.

Both Megan and Brendan are involved in scouting where they continue to live their faith. Last May, Megan received her "I Live the Faith" award from the Junior Girl Scouts. Megan, who loves helping people, wants to teach CCD when she gets older and has considered becoming a nun, but all that will have to wait awhile since she is also planning on winning the Miss

America crown. Brendan is just completing his Parvuli Dei (Children of God) award from the Boy Scouts.

It is important for the O'Lena's to do things together as a family, including matters of faith. As one example, every Good Friday, they march as a family in the annual Faith Walk. Megan, Brendan and Molly could not imagine not participating. It has become something that they really want to do. That is an indication of how successful Ed and Tammey have been in incorporating spirituality into the lives of their family. They continue to build their family's firm foundation of faith by exposing their children to all that our faith has to offer and not hiding them from it.

Both Ed and Tammey feel that the Sacred Heart Community has a very social and inviting atmosphere. In fact, church is like home for their family. It is that feeling that continues to make it so easy for them to stay involved in the life of our Faith Community. They have long embraced stewardship as a way of life and firmly believe that there is a ministry here for everyone. Their advice is to find something that you like, commit yourself to it, and share it with others. Doing that sure works for the O'Lena family.



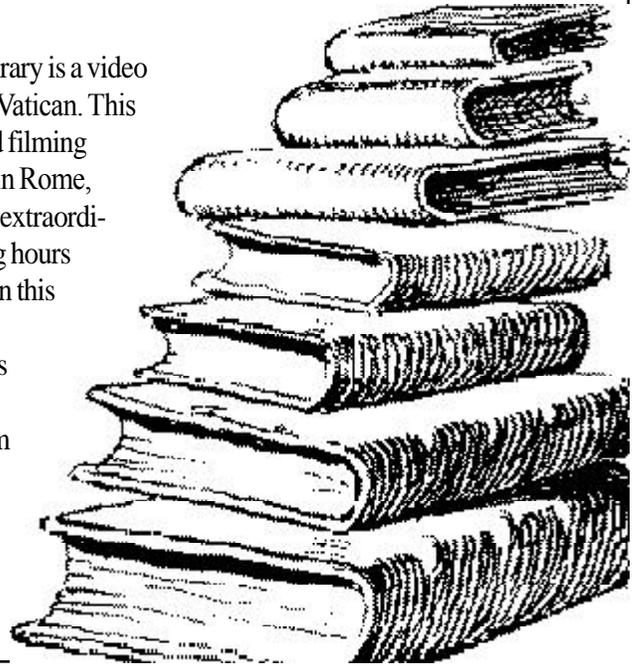
Barry Bonetti

Treasures For All in the Parish Library

Among the many items available for loan from the Parish Library is a video series "In the Footsteps of St. Peter" about museums of the Vatican. This eight volume set is the culmination of three years of researching and filming some of the world's most spectacular and sacred repositories of art in Rome, including the Sistine Chapel and the St. John Lateran Museum. An extraordinary source of cultural enrichment, these films offer several viewing hours of great beauty and history, particularly for anyone going to Rome in this Jubilee Year.

The Parish Library contains a good selection of books, as well as video and audio tapes for adults and children. It is open after all masses on Sunday and during Religious Education office hours from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 Mondays through Thursdays. Stop in and take home your trip to Rome.

Pat Joy



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